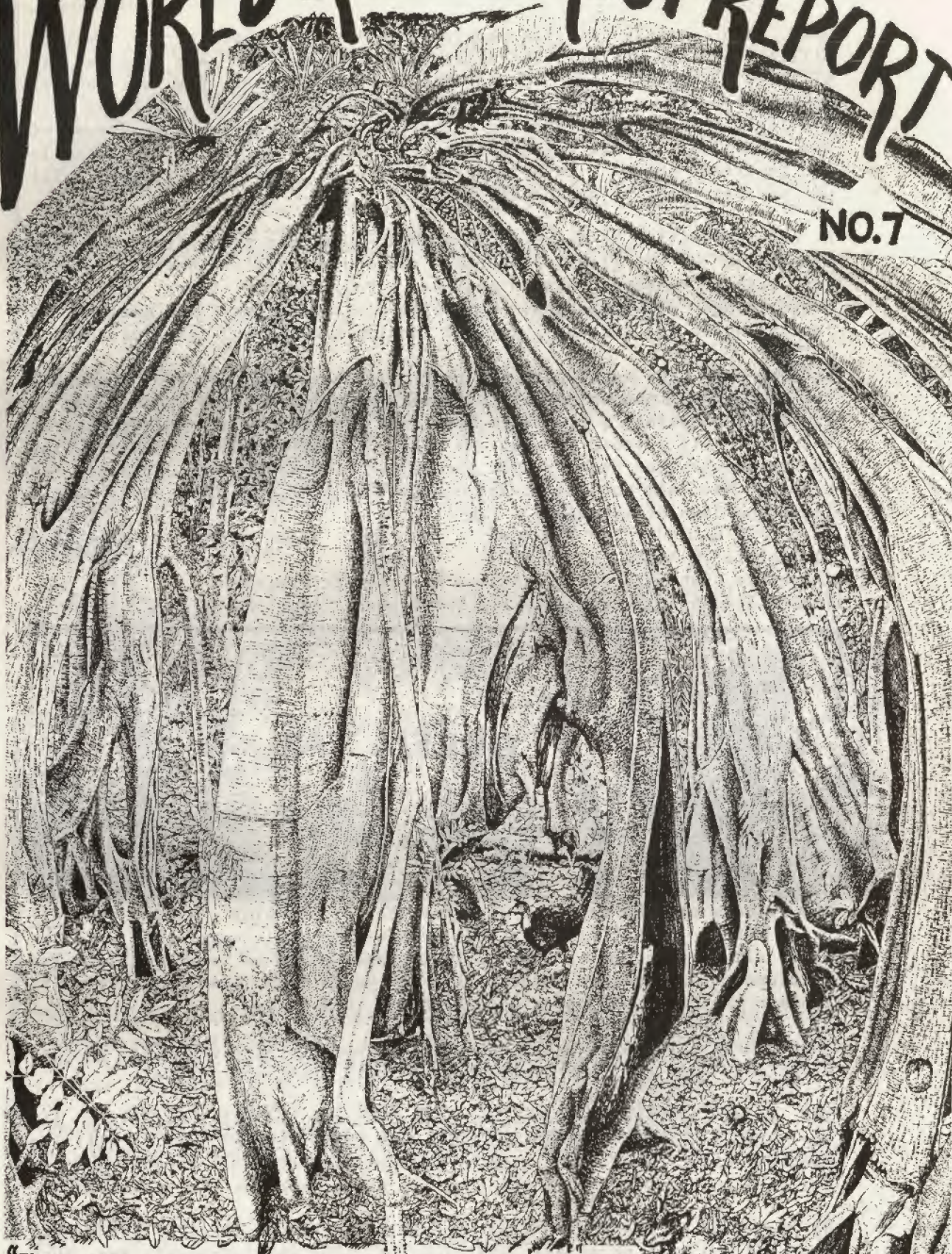




P.O. BOX 368
LISMORE
N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA 2480

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT

NO.7



"There will be no peace until there is peace with nature."

If we use energy more efficiently there need be no fight over oil. If we conserve our seas and rivers there need be no fight over water. If we hold back the deserts and save the soil there need be no conflict over land. If we share the bounties of our world fairly, there need be no famine.....

cont. over...

Such measures will guarantee the long term security of nations... What the world spends on guns in seven months could bring clean water to as many as two billion people. What we spend on arms every eight hours might be enough to eradicate malaria. What we spend on weapons every 20 minutes would more than pay for all of UNEP's year's work...

More than seventy million people serve the war machinery. Over 3 million of the world's best scientists and engineers are engaged in military research and development. Preparations for war absorb scientific and technological capabilities ten times as great as are available to all the developing countries put together... The mis-use of our human and natural resources is the invisible threat to our fragile and imperfect peace. Investment in more arms, ever more lethal, will not address these major threats to peace.

A new definition of security is needed - one that recognises how the exhaustion of the global resources base sours relations between states and raises tensions within nations. Pollution of rivers and seas, overfishing, deforestation, poisoning of eco-systems - are some of the factors which are raising political tension between and among nations.

Nations will have meaningful security only when they cease to undermine the ecological foundations of the global economy. Nations spend close to two million dollars a minute on arms, and yet they do not enjoy peace or security. If a tenth of what was spent on arms was spent on harvesting our resources, or pushing back the desert, or saving the forests, or keeping the air and the oceans clean - then I believe the world would reach the dawn of security."

(/
Dr Mostafa K Tolba

Executive Director, United Nations Environment Program
from a speech delivered on World Environment Day, 1986



Our readers will be familiar with the idea of GREENTAX - paying the full price for the timber products that we use, the replacement cost, what we will all need to do if life on this planet is to be sustainable. The Rainforest Information Centre has for years been planting trees to replace the paper and other wood products that we use.

Now SIMPLY LIVING magazine has started sending their GREENTAX in our direction - one cent for every copy of their excellent journal.

The first \$350 has now been spent on seedlings and other materials for the SIMPLY LIVING TUNTABLE SCHOOL WILD FOODS FOREST. This will be planted after the first rain by the children of the school and is designed to provide wild foods both for humans and for the native fauna.

We would be interested to hear proposals for future GREENTAX plantings. Where do you want to plant? What species, for what purpose? How much will it cost for each tree. We hope to be able to act as a conduit for future GREENTAX passing it on to persons and groups willing to plant and maintain the trees.

...and now.... **NUCLEAR REACTORS in RAINFOREST!**

by Ivan Fera

The Illustrated Weekly of India,
September 28, 1986

"On the lower slopes of the Western ghats in Karnataka, India, about 45 km from the coast, upstream on the Kali river, the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) proposes to site two nuclear reactors in the thick of a tropical rainforest. According to the DAE, Kaiga was chosen as the site because land was abundant, the population sparse and above all because "rain or no rain, there will always be water here". The DAE proposes to tap one of the dams of the Kaiga Hydro project, now underway. The hydro projects in this region comprise a chain of nine dams and 11 power houses. Not 25 km away at Arebail, deposits of uranium have come to light, and the DAE has already begun to plough private land ...



"The tribals are deeply disturbed. In the wake of protests by environmental and voluntary groups, they have now begun to sense the kind of threat that radiation poses to human beings and to all forms of life in the forests. L.T. Sharma, one of the environmentalists leading the campaigns, says that the tribals are no longer willing to work as casual labour on the preliminary earthworks the DAE has commissioned at the site. They have begun to swell the padyatras and protest marches called by voluntary groups, and have been attacked by gangs of goons hired by local politicians. Rane, the MLA from Karwar, L.T. Sharma says, has told the tribals that they will not be paid a paisa in compensation if they protest against the siting of the reactor on their lands.

The tribals and the environmentalists have now been joined in their struggle by one of Karnataka's greatest writers, Kota Shivarama Karanth. How does a novelist and a playwright look at this issue? Does a man of letters perceive it any differently from the way a concerned scientist or an engineer might? Karanth says that he has always had a deep interest in science, and does not deal with social problems alone. He has written an encyclopaedia for children, and four volumes of popular science.

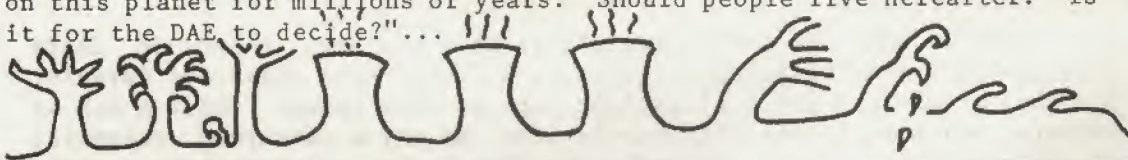
The Kaiga issue is close to the writer in a very direct sense. "Every year I spend time in the forest," Karanth says. "Kaiga is situated in the district next to mine." As such he knows these tropical rainforests intimately and is greatly concerned about the need to preserve what is one of the richest reservoirs of plant and insect life, fast being wiped off the face of the earth.

cont. over.... 3.

On a visit to the site with a group of concerned scientists, Karanth suddenly recalled something he had noticed three years ago, while looking at a relief map of the region. He was shown a satellite photograph of the range, that disclosed a seismic fault. It was vital to discover whether the fault cut through the site. Karanth discovered that the crack ran across the river, at precisely the point at which the dam was being erected. "The impounding of the river water is bound to trigger tremors on both sides," Karanth says. "Imagine it. You have a 280 Mw hydro-electric power house on one side and a 470 Mw nuclear power station on the other. You cannot paper over the tear with concrete if the crack in the earth runs down right through to the tectonic plate." "To situate a reactor on a seismic threshold violates all siting criteria," an environmentalist says, "and at Kaiga, you now have the dam acting as a catalyst."

Why is a nuclear station being sited here at all, against such odds? "There are two interests," Karanth says. "First, you have the industrialists, led by the Birlas, who want power at any cost. The Birlas have a polyfibre plant at Harihar, for which they want an assured supply of power. The plant is already a major source of pollution. The sea turns up dead fish at the point at which they are letting the effluents out. The only other reason I can think of for such blind insistence on situating a reactor here, is some defence objective which is not disclosed"....

"Karanth committed himself openly and completely to the tribals' struggle against the siting of the nuclear station at Kaiga. He sent a folk theatre group he had set up himself to participate in a padyatra the environmental groups had organised. Through song and dance, the troupe sought to heighten the tribals' awareness of the threat to their environment and their lives. They were confronted with a gang of goons armed with swords and daggers, who would not allow them to perform. Karanth wired Chief Minister Rama Krishna Hegde, protesting against the assault. At the chief minister's instructions, four of the goons were arrested, but released on bond at the instance of a local Janata politician, Nagesh Shanbag. The padyatra had to be completed under police protection.

"But that precisely is the issue," Karanth says. "We cannot allow the nuclear scientists to decide the future of our lives and the lives of generations to come. The use of any natural resource raises a very fundamental moral question. Do you have the right to dispose of any natural resource? You have no permanent rights over any resource. You cannot denude the forests or bury lethal nuclear wastes in the ground, which remain highly toxic for millions of years. The casks break open, and the contents leak out into the water table and contaminate the whole environment. You are only tenants on this earth. Man has lived on this planet for millions of years. Should people live hereafter? Is it for the DAE to decide?"... 

a letter from.....

Alanna Moore, 10 Wascoe Street, Leura 2780

The Mahawdi project is devastating the rainforests/climate of this tiny island, funded by the World Bank of course, it is destined to be ecological financial ruin. Already the climate is so haywire that rice crops are constantly being lost, whilst the indigenous Veddha people are being forced to grow paddy on the irrigated country, where once they roamed the forsts. It's sickening. Keep up the good work ■

WORLD BANK CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

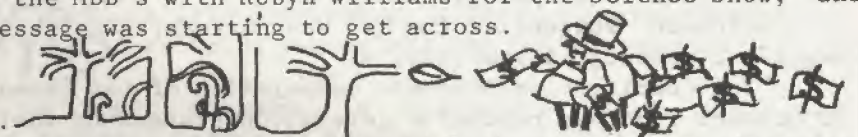


As announced in WRR6, demonstrations were held all over the world on the 30th of September to co-incide with the World Bank's annual meeting in Washington. In Washington itself, a three-day conference with an international panel was organised by major US environment organisations and a host of activities included protesters "...scaling an 11-storey building next to the World Bank's headquarters at 19th and H streets NW to unfurl a giant banner protesting the bank's financing of projects that the group claims destroy rainforests and animal species.

"About 10.30 a.m., while dignitaries from around the world arrived for the bank's annual conference, the two men unfurled a blue and white 40-foot-by-20-foot banner that read: 'World Bank Destroys Tropical Rainforests.'

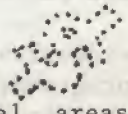
"World Bank loans support projects responsible for the destruction of 100 acres of rainforest every minute. It must end," John Liebman, one of the climbers, said in a statement passed out by organisers." (Washington Post, 1.9.86.)

Australia's Treasurer, Paul Keating was in Washington in his role as Australian sector World Bank Governor. Meanwhile, in Canberra, members of the Rainforest Information Centre spent an hour in discussion of the issues with officers of the Treasury and Foreign Affairs. Later we staged a theatre/press conference outside the Treasury and this was well attended by representatives of television, radio and print media. Melbourne's 'The Age' did a large feature story on the issue the following day, and it was mentioned in most other major papers throughout the country. John Seed did an interview about the MDB's with Robyn Williams for the Science Show, and generally we felt that the message was starting to get across.



Our "Art Attack" theatre troupe portrayed the World Bank through the character of Big Bucks, an obnoxious economist in a top hat with money spilling from all his pockets and he presented the World Bank's annual report. Several other emaciated characters represented the various continents where Big Bucks plies his trade, and he would inspect their teeth, steal their jewellery etc, and he would stand on their throats while reporting on the various "developments" he was financing. In the background, was a huge, colourful banner: "WORLD BANK - FINANCING ECOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION AND CULTURAL GENOCIDE".

A sample from the script: BIG BUCKS (with one foot on INDIA's throat):



"We have been particularly successful in converting the last natural areas, liquidating these assets and turning them into high-yield, short-term cash crops which will pay off at least a portion of the interest on India's debts to us. Although like my predecessor I worship only at the altar of economic pragmatism, on this occasion, as an act of mercy, we have decided not to raise the interest rates.

"We have single-handedly built up the pesticide industry in this country. India now consumes more than 3/4 of the DDT manufactured in the world.

Our Narmada dam scheme will forcibly displace two million people while destroying the last well-forested watershed in the country, and all levels of government are fully co-operative.

"The benefits of our investment in India are evidenced by the fact that we've been able to maintain wages at under \$1 a day and we have a vast and ever-growing population of environmental refugees ready to grow our tea and cotton, carry headloads of rocks to build vast dams, and manufacture our two-bob watches for us.

"We must congratulate the Government of India. Even though no more than 15% of the children born each year are adequately fed, the Indian Government is nonetheless doing everything in its power to encourage more and more food exports to service their huge debt to us.

"Less than 10% forest cover remains, and we have some interesting oil, palm, wood-pulp and hydro schemes to deal with the remainder.

"Our lending policies have, as usual, created a multitude of contracts for Western firms as well as the usual highly-paid positions for European administrators, consultants, officials, etc."

The GRIM REAPER then smites INDIA; and SOUTH AMERICA is lead onstage by a chain. →

The Rainforest Information Centre was in Canberra representing the Australian Multilateral Development Banks Coalition which had earlier written a letter to Keating which concluded-

"Mr Keating, to what extent will our government participate in the reformation of the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks to bring about a greater concern for the natural environment, the lifestyles of indigenous peoples and the poor people of this world?"

Like all previous letters since March this year, this communication has not been answered.

The Australian MDB Coalition is composed of both Environment Groups such as ourselves, The Wilderness Society, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and AREA as well as aid organisations, such as Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign, Community Aid Abroad, Action for World Development and the Evatt Foundation. The group, which meets regularly in Sydney, was formed at the suggestion of the Rainforest Information Centre and represents an historic recognition of the indivisibility of development and conservation (as proposed by the World Conservation Strategy).

Our banner also featured at another event in Canberra two weeks later when Anandarup Ray from The World Bank in Washington DC presented the Bank's "World Development Report". At the end of incredibly boring presentations by the five economists on the stage (including Australia's Minister for Primary Industries, John Kerin), the packed hall clapped and cheered as three women ran in front of the panel obscuring them behind the banner and harangued the assemblage with statements such as "We need more ecologists, not economists" and so on. This protest was also screened on the ABC news that night.

In other developments:

Reinhard Behrend of the RIC West Germany (REGENWALDER INFORMATION, Poseldorfer Weg 17, 2 Hamburg 13,) writes:

"The Committee on Economic Cooperation of the German Bundestag in its session of 22 October 1986 has reached a general understanding that the Executive Directors who represent Germany with the Multilateral Development Banks should act in accord with their colleagues from the US in the sense of the Resolution 465.."

"..Our Regenwalder Zeitung is going well with over 100 subscribers.."

ACFOA (Australian Council for Overseas Aid), representing the country's scores of non-government aid organisations, passed a resolution at their annual meeting "deploring the destructive impact upon the environment and basic human rights of many aid projects funded by the World Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks".

The governing Australian Labor Party's annual conference in Hobart, "Noting the widespread and growing international concern over Indonesia's Transmigration programme, including its cultural, ecological and economic impact, Labor will use its influence to seek a review of the programme through the World Bank.."

While in Canberra, John Seed and Michael Burgess of Community Aid Abroad were able to see the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee for Environment and Conservation, Peter Milton, who promised that his Committee would approach the Treasurer about the issue, and David Vigor, an Australian Democrats Senator and Member of Senate Standing Committee for Science Technology and the Environment. As a result of our submissions, we have been granted a Hearing before this Committee later in November.

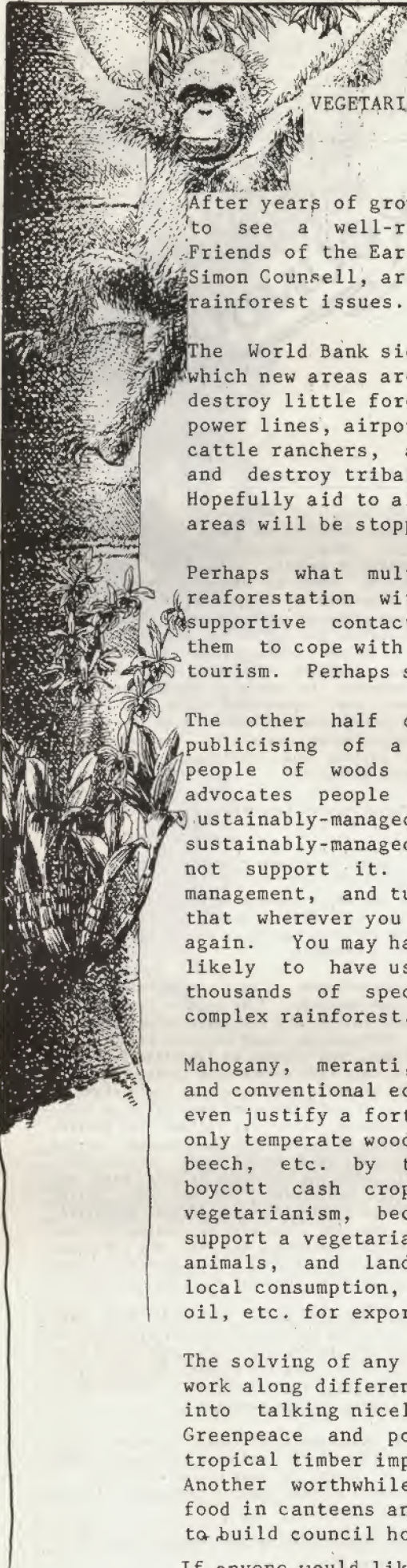
Senator Vigor has already asked questions that we raised in the Parliament (Hansard, Estimates Committees D, E and F, 23.9.86), though he did not receive satisfactory answers.

The pressure in Australia seems to be having the desired effect. A letter we received from Washington in September stated that:

"Regarding the general campaign to reform the MDB's the US Treasury and State Departments have been raising formally the environmental and indigenous peoples issues, as required by Congressional legislation passed December 19, 1985. At the April 30 1986 meeting of the World Bank's Budget Committee, the US representative made a prepared statement on these issues, asking for support from other members. As a result of lobbying done by the NGO network, a number of countries supported the initiative including the Scandinavian bloc, the UK, Netherlands, Canada and Australia."

SO....,

if you haven't already written to Keating calling on Australia to follow the US in pressing for environmental reforms to the MDB's (see WRR6), please do so. His address is Parliament House, Canberra. In other countries, please write to your Treasurer about this issue. ■



VEGETARIANISM AND TROPICAL HARDWOOD CAMPAIGNS

by Malcolm Samuel

After years of growing concern about rainforest destruction, it is great to see a well-researched, well-funded campaign getting underway. Friends of the Earth England and Wales' campaigners, Charles Secrett and Simon Counsell, are making global links and greatly raising awareness of rainforest issues.

The World Bank side of the campaign will definitely reduce the rate at which new areas are opened up for major projects. Even activities that destroy little forest in themselves, such as mining, need access roads, power lines, airports and seaports. Thus landless peasants, racketeers, cattle ranchers, accompanied by alcohol and western diseases, penetrate and destroy tribal cultures, and wide tracts of forest are destroyed. Hopefully aid to all the present kinds of development projects in forest areas will be stopped.

Perhaps what multilateral organisations should be supporting are (a) reforestation with diverse multi-crop agro-forestry systems, (b) supportive contacts with tribal cultures to learn from them and enable them to cope with contacts with our society, and (c) certain kinds of tourism. Perhaps such ideas could become part of FOE's campaign.

The other half of their campaign is consumer-oriented, e.g. the publicising of a tropical hardwoods product list. This list advises people of woods that do not come from sustainable concessions and advocates people buying some that the companies claim come from sustainably-managed stands. I do not believe that there are any sustainably-managed logging operations in the tropics. The soils will not support it. Current economics will not support such long-term management, and turbulent politics, landless peasants, et cetera, mean that wherever you have a logging trail, you won't have a forest there again. You may have rubber plants or banana plantations, you are more likely to have useless scrubland, but you certainly won't have the thousands of species, the beauty, the primeval animal noises of a complex rainforest.

Mahogany, meranti, et cetera, take hundreds of years to reach maturity, and conventional economics, even in politically stable countries, cannot even justify a forty-year spruce crop. We should be asking people to by only temperate woods, and working to increase the supply of oak, cherry, beech, etc. by tree planting here. We should be asking people to boycott cash crops and beef from the Third World, and encouraging vegetarianism, because of the far smaller land area (1/10) needed to support a vegetarian. Land here could be devoted to trees rather than animals, and land in the tropics could be in trees or food crops for local consumption, rather than tea, coffee, sugar, bananas, rubber, palm oil, etc. for export.

The solving of any problem is aided if different groups and individuals work along different angles of approach. If all FOE's campaigning goes into talking nicely to bankers and loggers, then other people such as Greenpeace and political activists should be working at blockades of tropical timber imports at sea, and trade unions refusing to move them. Another worthwhile campaign would be for councils to serve vegetarian food in canteens and leisure centres, and to buy office furniture and to build council housing made only of temperate timbers.

If anyone would like copies of my Forest or Famine leaflet, send a SAE for one copy, or 5 for 200, to me at 70 Fivey Road, Ballymoney, Northern Ireland. ■

WORLD



ROUNDUP

PHILIPPINES - A RAIN-FOREST RAPTOR IN DANGER

"Living in the rain forests of the Philippines is one of the largest and rarest eagles in the world, the Philippine eagle - *Pitheophaga jefferyi*. This magnificent bird is in danger of extinction due to the pressures of land development and human persecution. . .

"The life of the eagle is inextricably linked with the rain forest, which provides its food and nesting requirements. It has an extremely slow breeding rate, probably laying only one egg and rearing one young every two years. Nesting begins between October and November, incubation takes two months, and the chick fledges after a further four months. Even after fledging, the young bird stays in its parents' home range for the next year, presumably being fed by them while it learns to hunt for itself. Nesting only takes place again after the young bird has left the area, but if it dies as a small chick, the parents will begin nesting in the following winter.

This slow breeding rate is typical of the very large tropical eagles and makes them vulnerable to hunting. They are also relatively easy targets, spending much time at the nest, and sometimes flying very slowly when soaring out of the forest. With a maximum of one young every two years, new recruitment to the population is slow. Thiollay (1984), working with the ecologically similar harpy eagle, noted that it disappears from an area when man colonises it.

Any record of eagle decline is also a story of forest decline. Up until the twentieth century rainforest was still the predominant vegetation over most of the Philippine islands, and presumably before the arrival of man, covered all of the country except for the areas of pine forest in Luzon and Mindoro, coastal mangroves and areas disturbed by volcanic and cyclonic activity. Before World War II 50-70 per cent of the country was still covered by forests, with the majority of this being rain forest. . . After World War II massive industrial and agricultural development of the rain forest began. Only 44 per cent was left by 1971, 38 per cent by 1976, and perhaps only 20 per cent by 1982. It is estimated that by 1990 all virgin lowland rain forest will have gone, and that by the turn of the century all accessible forest will have been cleared. High altitude (1700 m) mossy forest will probably survive, but this is unsuitable for eagle nesting as the trees are too small. By the time all the commercial forests have gone, in all probability the eagles will have gone too.

Forest conversion in the Philippines has followed a pattern typical of many areas in the tropics through the action of illegal logging, undisciplined legitimate logging and shifting cultivation (slash-and-burn) farmers. As much as 80 per cent of this forest conversion may be illegal.

"The next 10 years will determine the future of the Philippine eagle and the other rainforest endemics. Conservation principles are not yet fully appreciated in the Philippines; the mountain people who live with and exploit the forest consider it an inexhaustible resource, and the city dwellers rarely think of the mountains and their wildlife. The situation need not be irreversible.

LAST RAIN FORESTS NEED PROTECTION IN NIGERIA

The rainforests of south-east Nigeria are disappearing rapidly and none is protected effectively. Okomu Forest Reserve, the largest forest reserve in Bendel, is the least disturbed and contains what is probably the largest surviving population of endangered white-throated monkeys *Cercopithecus erythrogaster*. There is no real conservation policy for the reserve, part of which is being converted to an oil-palm plantation; felling continues unabated and hunting pressure is heavy. Researchers have recommended the establishment of a strict sanctuary in the heart of Okomu, with the rest of the reserve being carefully managed, with selective felling and ranching of duiker and grasscutter antelope.

Nigerian Conservation Foundation Newsletter, 1. □

BRAZIL - RUBBER TAPPER SPEAKS

Addressing the World Commission on Environment and Development, Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 28 October 1985, Jaime da Silva Araujo, a rubber tapper, made the following comments:

Ladies and gentlemen, I am a seringueiro (rubber tapper) from Amazonas. I am here to speak about the tropical forest. The Amazonian forest is being brutally destroyed by large projects financed by foreign banks, and planned by Brazilian interests that do not take into account the living beings in the forest, projects that take away their right to life. In the forest, there are many types of life, one of them being that of the Indians. The Indians are the people who were there when someone started that old story about Brazil being 'discovered'. After all, when the Portuguese arrived here the land already had owners, and they were called Indians. These peoples were sacrificed, despoiled, forgotten and now some want to extinguish the remnants of the indigenous nations. But 200 years after this historic farce, there emerged a new people living in the forests. I am one of them.

"...If you did research, you would find that almost all of the raw materials that are used to make medicines in laboratories come from the forest, so that once the forest is destroyed, these raw materials are destroyed"... requiring us to import costly foreign material.

"...People who want to deforest Amazonia first design a road project, and with the road comes destruction, behind a mask called progress. I don't believe in this kind of progress. It is destruction.

From INTERNATIONAL PRIMATE PROTECTION LEAGUE □
Newsletter, Aug. 86.



AUSTRALIA - 'GREAT ECONOMIC POTENTIAL' FOR RAINFOREST NUTS

Australia's rainforests are rich, untapped sources of highly nutritious foods, especially nuts, says University of Sydney bushfood expert Vic Cherioff.

Three rainforest nuts investigated recently show particular promise for future development which could be of the same scale and success, he believes, as of the Macadamia. The three nuts with such potential he describes as: the 'baby' or 'bush' walnut, which grows in the rainforest south of Darwin; the red bopple or 'monkey' nut found in the rainforest of northern New South Wales; and the most recent find located during an August trek in north Queensland, the 'Daintree' nut from the area of the same name.

Another nut, the 'bush nutmeg' also from Daintree, is related to the commercially grown nutmeg found in Sumatra, and has a concentrated nutmeg and cinnamon flavour.

All three nuts, and the nutmeg, have in the past contributed to the traditional diet of Aborigines in the areas in which they grow. There are still some Aborigines for whom the nuts are a regular food when in season..."

The University of Sydney News, Sept. 1986 Vol 18.No.24. □

USA- GETTING AT THE LAST TREES

On July 1st. a 10-storey tall, 105 metre long airship built for the US Forestry Service at a cost of \$A36.8 million, caught fire and crashed, killing one of the five crew members. It was powered by four sawn-off helicopters mounted on a huge aluminium frame that supported the airship. Forestry officials said that it could have become "the cutting edge of technology for remote timber harvesting".

It may reasonably be inferred that such expensive and dangerous equipment would be used mainly for timber growing on slopes so steep that roading would be impractical - say 30 deg. or more. THE COLONG BULLETIN, No.98, Sept.86. □

AUSTRALIA - BLESS SCOTTIES TISSUES?

by Marianne Heymann

Bowater-Scott, the Victorian Government and the ACTU had secret negotiations in April 1986. The result was Bowater-Scott being given 8900 acres of public land for pine-planting, and with this a 40-year agreement for supply of sawlogs.

Why is Bowater-Scott using public land rather than purchasing or leasing their own land from private sources? Although it is in direct violation of ALP policy to plant in native forests, there is no protection written into this Agreement. Why not? As a consumer, I will not buy products which demand that our already embattled flora and fauna must suffer even further.

Please join me and **BOYCOTT BOWATER-SCOTT.**

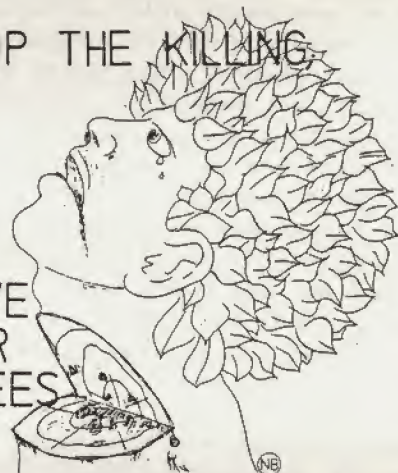
Write to: Mr.L.A.Wilson, BOWATER-SCOTT Corp., 11 Ailsa St., Box Hill. 3128.

PRODUCTS TO BOYCOTT:

Sorbent, Scotties, Bowscott, Scott Family napkins, Lady Scott, Dri Tot Baby Diapers, AFI Sawn Timber and Plywood Products. □

STOP THE KILLING

SAVE
OUR
TREES



PAPUA NEW GUINEA



From: Basil Schur, Campaign to Save Native Forests (WA), The Environment Centre, 794 Hay St. Perth 6000

31.7.86: "Please find info on Bunnings which you can publish. Bunnings is rainforest logging company which we can influence."

21.10.86: "...I have started to accumulate much information on the connection between Bunnings Ltd. (based in WA) and its logging operations in Vanimo in PNG..."

"I am interested in feeding into your campaign to study Australian links in Pacific region rainforest destruction. Can you zap me into your networks, or even better, can you become more involved in helping to develop a coordinated campaign regarding the Vanimo operations?"

5.11.86: "...Enclosed is a letter I received from PNG regarding Bunnings activities. Please use it and the other info I sent you..."

From: Paul Langro, Premier, Sandaun Provincial Government
PO Box 126 Vanimo, West Sepik Province, P.N.G.

To: Basil Schur

"...Your correspondence comes at a time when the government of this province, West Sepik is pursuing very rigorously its efforts to review the present project agreement that the State of PNG signed with Bunning Brothers Pty Ltd of Australia to exploit our large timber resource..."

"The Bunning Brothers subsidiary Vanimo Forest Products Pty Ltd (VFP) is not adhering to the signed agreement ... VFP Pty Ltd is logging on slopes greater than 30 degrees which will cause soil erosion... Also care is not taken in logging leading to very severe damage to rivers and streams many of which are the only means of survival of the local people and animal life."

We really want assistance in the following.

1. Assistance to assess the extent of damage the Bunnings operation has done to our environment.
2. Legal assistance to take the Bunnings Company to Court over
 - (a) Its failure to implement the Project Agreement
 - (b) To force an early review or termination of the Bunnings operation in Vanimo.

I am very happy and would welcome your suggestion of sending an ABC Television crew to Vanimo... At least the television publicity would expose the bad effects of the Bunning operations in Vanimo to the Australian people. My people are very aware of the problems.

If your organisation has information on the activities of Bunnings in the timber industry in Australia, I would also appreciate if you can send them to me..."

Niugini News, 15.7.86.: "The multi-million kina Vanimo timber project is causing a lot of problems for the people in the province, according to provincial officials. A brief prepared for the Prime Minister and his departmental heads who visited the Sepik Province... said the company, Bunning Brothers Pty Ltd of Perth Australia, was not utilising the resource properly because surplus logs were left to rot or are burnt which affected royalty payments to landowners... Numerous complaints from employees of the company regarding their ill-treatment by the company conditions of employment," the brief said... It is said that this was evidenced by unhygienic workers accommodation compounds which it described as "appalling" and that workers were not treated properly when injured while working...Almost everything in the agreement has not been properly attended to since the signing in 1984."

Post Courier, 31.7.86.: "TIMBER SIEGE"

The Vanimo Forest Products timber yard was yesterday under siege. And an expatriate was attacked by striking PNG employees. A middle-aged Australian was punched and kicked but not badly hurt. He had been driving a truck carrying hardwood logs to the town's wharf for export.

About 150 workers halted construction of a sawmill, then moved into the timber yard in town and rolled logs across the main driveway. "They are now in control of the whole property" said an eyewitness. "They are sitting on piles of logs and sawn timber singing and shouting."

If you would like to let Bunnings know what you think about their activities, their address is: Managing Director, Bunnings Ltd., 255 Adelaide Terrace. Perth, Australia. 6000. ■

Poz update



SUSTAINED YIELD FAILS IN THE AUSTRALIAN TROPICAL FORESTS.

By Gregg Borschmann

Attempts to sustainably manage logging of the wet tropical rainforests in northern Australia have been an "over-all failure", according to one of the world's most respected tropical foresters, Mr. Alf Leslie.

Mr. Leslie, an Australian acting as a consultant to the new International Tropical Timbers Organisation, said Australia was squandering its prime rainforest timbers on "rubbish" low value end uses. He criticised logging operations in the north Queensland rainforests as generally "wasteful and messy".

Mr. Leslie's comments come at a critical time as Australia decides the future of its tropical rainforests, which contain the world's richest concentration of families of primitive flowering plants and yet survive as scattered remnants which could be embraced within a circle of about 50 km radius.

The logging industry which has exploited pristine forest for the past century is in crisis. Accessible unlogged areas of rainforest will be exhausted within the next couple of years. In 1986, timber quotas were more than halved to 60,000m³ and job losses of similar proportions are reducing total direct employment to less than 500.

The Queensland Forestry Department claims there is no crisis, and the industry will now be managed on a sustained yield basis. The Queensland Conservator of Forests, Mr. John Kelly, admits the operations are effectively an experiment because sustained yield has not worked anywhere else in the world. He blamed not the foresters but the pressures of poverty and overpopulation.

"Our management has been intense to ensure there would be a second cut. If we are going to be the only country in the world to do it, then so be it. We are different. We are stable politically and the big difference is that we do not have an impoverished population using the forests after logging for fuelwood or shifting agriculture," Mr. Kelly said.

Despite Australia's obvious advantages -- the economic, political and scientific wealth and expertise -- a consensus is emerging that sustained yield management of the Australian rainforests for timber values alone has not worked and is inappropriate for the future.

Some experts challenge the essence of the sustained yield model itself. Dr. Neil Byron, a lecturer at the Australian National University's school of forestry, said sustained yield had not worked successfully over the long term in the tropics -- Queensland included.

"It is a model which evolved in 18th century Europe in conifer forests working with three or four types of tree, but it has proved totally inappropriate to the tropical forests which are so much more complex and contain hundreds of different tree species".

Dr. Ross Florence, a reader in forestry at the Australian National University and a member of the Australian Institute of Foresters, thought Australia should be hastening slowly, working toward better preservation of different types of rainforest, some of which should never be logged. "There are good reasons for logging some rainforest, but because of over-cutting and inadequate management we may end up with nothing left to log".

He criticised low royalties and destructive logging techniques. "The very heavy machines used today have flattened the tropical forest, getting out maximum timber in the least expensive way".

Mr. Leslie agreed Australian timber was too cheap and extraction rate from the forest too high. He would like to see about 5000m³ harvested each year (about a 12 fold cut on the present quota). The rainforest timber industry had to be changed into a low volume, labour intensive end-use industry, with more experts, craftspeople and woodworkers making the best furnitures, the finest arts and crafts and wood products from the best species. Mr. Leslie, a director of the forest industries division of the United Nations Food and Agriculture organisation (F.A.O.) between 1977-81, said he thought conservation arguments that the Australian rainforests were "absolutely unique" had been "stretched". At the same time "what I have seen up there (in North Queensland) when it gets out of control makes me say 'leave it' ... I have seen parts where you could only describe the logging as disastrous ... they were cutting corners because there was not a great margin between costs and returns".

Mr. Leslie agreed sustained yield had not worked. "It's been an over-all failure despite one or two examples which show what can be done and that has been more due to personal commitment and effort by individual foresters rather than good departmental management".

He also agreed Australia did not depend economically on exploiting the forests for timber, and it would probably be easiest -- and even wisest if his low impact, low timber volume model of forestry is not adopted -- for Australians to decide on no logging. "I would not be greatly upset if all of the North Queensland rainforest was put into national park".

Mr. Leslie's comments echo those of another leading forester, Dr. Tim Whitmore, head of the forestry unit at Oxford in the U.K. who also believes rainforest logging can be done in some rainforest types while maintaining conservation values; but as he told Dr. Aila Keto, president of the Rainforest Conservation Society of Queensland, in an interview during a recent visit to Australia: "There may well be a special case in Australia for preserving all of the rainforests because of their great diversity, their relict nature and the presence of so-called primitive plants and because you don't need to log them. Australia is economically wealthy enough not to depend on logging its rainforests; you have alternative sources of wealth. So you have a unique opportunity for doing long-term studies on the rainforests in a politically stable climate".

Ironically, a major recommendation in a recent report to Australian federal environment minister, Mr. Barry Cohen, urging establishment of an inquiry into the future of the rainforest timber industry in Australia has been shelved.

The Federal Government has \$21.5 million set aside for rainforest conservation in Australia. The Queensland Government -- which administers the state's rainforests -- is determined logging will proceed while ignoring the crisis the industry is in. So the major conservation issue facing the Australian tropical rainforests -- logging -- is being sidestepped as the two governments negotiate to dole out money for rainforest conservation to build interpretive centres, finance more research, buy back some freehold forest and establish plantations.

All very admirable goals, but not the essential and immediate issue.



FOCAL PEAK

by Dailan Pugh and John Seed

The NSW Government has been presented with four proposals for National Parks and Nature Reserves in the upper Clarence River Valley in the north of the state. The 16,000 ha. of pure rainforest and some 12,000 ha. of developing rainforest included in the proposals grow on the mountain remnants of a once massive volcano known as Focal Peak.

All of the proposals cover public lands controlled by the Forestry Commission as State Forests. Therefore no monies would be required to purchase the land, but only to undertake flora and fauna surveys, establish the reserves and compensate the local timber industry - preferably by establishing plantations on derelict farmlands which abound in the district.

The historic 1982 NSW Cabinet decision led to an increase of rainforests in National Parks in this state from under 29,000 ha. to 80,000 ha. While it was claimed that this included all significant areas of rainforest, in actual fact the only areas considered were the controversial ones that were being pursued by various conservation groups.

Of the 250,000 ha. of developed rainforest in NSW, 80,000 ha. (32%) is now protected in National Parks or Nature Reserves. This is only 8% of the million ha. of rainforest estimated as occurring in NSW at the time of white settlement.

131,000 ha. of NSW rainforest are still under the control of the Forestry Commission. General purpose logging is continuing in some areas (contrary to government policy) and the majority are earmarked for "special purpose" logging.

In addition to these acknowledged rainforest areas, there is a similar expanse of developing rainforest where eucalypts and Brush Box (a rainforest species) overtop a rainforest understory. In many places, the rainforest is almost fully developed below, but the scattered ancient hardwood trees remaining enable the Forestry Commission to classify it as a hardwood resource suitable for logging and destruction of the rainforest component.

After numerous approaches, the NSW Minister for Planning and Environment, Bob Carr, finally stated on September 3 that "a significant portion of the funds provided to this state (by the National Rainforest Conservation Program) will be expended on the conservation of rainforest in the Focal Peak area, including the purchase of privately owned rainforest areas." When the program was announced on Oct 3, no significant funds were announced for expenditure and no private lands are to be purchased in the Focal Peak region. It now seems highly unlikely that any rainforests in State Forests will be incorporated into National Parks or Nature Reserves in NSW unless public pressure forces the government to do so.

The rainforests and unusually abundant native animals of the Focal Peak region make it one of the most biologically diverse regions of Australia. What transpires within the region is important for the future of these rainforests and also for the 52% of NSW's rainforests still under the control of the Forestry Commission. They are obviously just waiting for a more conservative government to allow them open slather in these regions again. We should wrest control of the rainforests away from the Forestry Commission while we still can.

The Rainforest Information Centre proposes that all remaining rainforest areas in this state, whether mature or developing underneath a hardwood overstory, be transferred to the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Please write to Barry Unsworth, Premier of NSW, Parliament House, NSW, Australia 2000 expressing your support for this proposal, and in particular asking him to protect the Focal Peak area.

If you want more information about the Focal Peak area, send us a donation and we will send you a 4 page introduction.





Daintree - no words can describe the preciousness of this tropical rainforest which rises from sea to mountain top, victim of an ecological tragedy.

The road which was pushed through in 1983/84 from Cape Tribulation to Bloomfield is a scar which bleeds every wet season, depositing its dregs through the lowlands and into the fringing coral reefs of the ocean. Every dry season it is repaired only to become rudely infected by the dust of thousands of 4-wheel-drive vehicles and the situation is getting worse.

I visited this area for the first time in July/August along with other friends with whom I share time at the RIC. We stayed at Cape Tribulation with Hans who has lived with the forest for the past 12 years and was very active in the blockades to stop the road. His passionate concern and love for the forest was a great inspiration to us.

With the original blockade site just minutes walk from Hans' place, Patrick and I took on the task of creating an information display there, as every day the forest witnesses the dust and noise of 100 or more 4-wheel-drive vehicles. With a brief stop for a snap-shot of the blockade site, they continue their journey up the contraversial, poorly aligned road to Bloomfield 40 km to the north.

Now that the information display exists, passengers take more interest. We even saw some cars turn around after reading our display boards like "Why you shouldn't use this road". Our display explained the siltation, the destruction of canopy exposing the surrounding forest, the invasion by weeds and phythopthera fungus, feral pigs and cane toads. Other information described the blockades of '83 and '84 and the effectiveness of writing letters to politicians. We also described the plight of the rainforests globally. With the help of other friends from RIC (at one point there were four of us up there as well as four of our kids) Hans set up a second, mobile, information centre which we positioned at certain strategic points in the neighbourhood. Both these information points are still operating and collecting signatures calling for World Heritage nomination of the Australian wet tropics. 20,000 signatures have been collected so far mainly by the residents above the blockade site who, along with Hans are doing a tremendous job keeping the issue alive.

Also while we were up there, the film crew making "Earth First!" spent a week at Hans' place, documenting the tragedy. Jack Thompson, presenting and narrating the film (which will be shown on ABC TV early in the new year), Jeni Kendell directing, Paul Tait (who won this years AFC award for best cameraman) and the RIC's John Seed producing.

The mission was, and still is the raising of consciousness, action and empowerment to save the forests, to save the Earth.

Since we arrived back in NSW we have learnt that the Douglas Shire has closed the road for major works, knocking 10 metres off the top of Donovan's Hill removing 27,000 cu.m. of soil to the bottom of the hill to lessen the steep grade and are planning to turn exquisite Emmagen Creek into a gravel quarry to provide material for the road. A few days ago, Bob Hawke at Kakadu said that his government would do something about the Daintree. Lets hope that they do so, and that they do so fast! ■

WORLD BANK AND I.M.F. HIT BY WALKOUT ON PAY
by Clyde H. Farnsworth

WORLD BANK
PAY RISES

Washington, May 23rd. - Employees of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - including several hundred professional economists earning upwards of \$100,000 taxfree - walked off their jobs today in a wage dispute.

For the Institutions' technocrats who lunch daily on cote de veau and Cotes de Rhone at subsidised prices, the strike culminated a personal encounter with the austerity measures they often recommend for debt-burdened developing countries...

The payscales at the bank and the I.M.F. are about a third higher than comparable positions in the United States Government."

The New York Times, Saturday May 24, 1986. □

INDONESIA - RATTAN STOCKS RAVAGED

Increasing world demand for rattan cane is damaging the Morowali Reserve in central Sulawesi, Indonesia. The reserve was designated in 1980 but protection exists only on paper, and islanders are extracting 36 tonnes of rattan cane a year. The forest is being damaged and numbers of endemic species - dwarf buffalo, babirousa and egg-burying maloe fowl - are reduced. Some rattan species are disappearing - a third of Sulawesi's rattans are undescribed. The protection of Morowali Reserve - the only remaining example of primary lowland alluvial rainforest in Sulawesi - is vital and the control of rattan harvesting is essential to protect stocks.

BBC Wildlife.4.iii. □

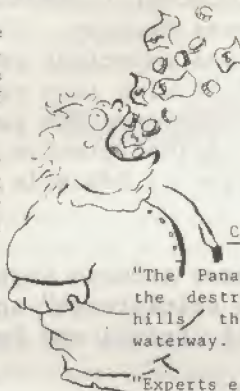


WHAT FUTURE FOR AMAZONIAN WILDLIFE?

- During 1984 and 1985 the World Wildlife Fund (US) conducted detailed studies of the trends of economic development within Brazilian Amazonia, and the potential and actual effects on the regions's wildlife. A comprehensive report published in March 1986 identifies current threats to the vast Amazonian forests, predicts future pressures that will have to be faced, and considers the directions for future conservation strategies. . .

"Intensive economic development of Amazonia is a recent phenomenon, beginning with the completion of the first main Amazonian highway in 1960. The WWF-US studies took place approximately halfway through the projected development period: in another 25 years little rainforest will remain. At present, agricultural and industrial development are concentrated in the eastern and southern regions, the areas best served by the highways and closest to the markets and export points of southern Brazil. Major mineral deposits are found in the region, and the hydroelectric potential of the major tributaries of the Amazon is already being harnessed. In the northern and western regions, the main threat is that of timber logging. Amazonian timbers, with a few exceptions, are not valued highly on the international market, but this is changing rapidly with the depletion of more traditional source areas. By the year 2000, Brazilian Amazonia is expected to produce 10 per cent of the world's hardwood, more than any other country. Exploration of the pulp potential of seasonally flooded forests (a series of unique vegetation types along the Amazon and its main tributaries) has provided foresters with encouraging results, and these readily accessible forests will be among the first to disappear, along with their endemic species."

Andrew Johns, Oryx magazine □



CRISIS IN STORE FOR PANAMA CANAL

"The Panama Canal is slowly drying up because of the destruction of tropical rainforests in the hills that overlook the world's most famous waterway.

"Experts estimate that in less than 15 years-- if the tree-felling continues - only the smallest ships will be able to take the short-cut through the Americas and avoid having to round Cape Horn.

The Canal needs a constant supply of fresh water to stay in business. Every ship that passes through takes with it 52 million gallons of water, down through the locks from the waterway's highest point, 85 feet above sea-level, to the ocean.

On average 32 ships use the canal each day, so they take with them almost 1.7 billion gallons of water. Other water users, such as the hydroelectric power stations, and the cities of Colon and Panama, raise the abstraction to a total of well over two billion gallons a day. . .

"As trees are cut down in the hills above the lakes, there is nothing to bind the soil to the mountainside and it is washed down into the lakes. As the lake silt up, their storage capacity is cut.

"In the early 1950's, 85 per cent of the 1500 square mile watershed was forested. Now only 25 per cent is still covered with trees. . .

"The experts fear that the canal will first become increasingly unusable in particularly dry seasons.

"The effects on Panama, which depends on the canal as much as Kuwait does on oil, would be catastrophic. And it would hurt the world economy, by forcing ships sailing between the Eastern and Western US to lengthen their journeys by 8000 miles."

by Geoffrey Lean- The Observer, June 22 1986. □

USA - TROPICAL RAINFORESTS: STRATEGIES FOR WISE MANAGEMENT

CONFERENCE - FEBRUARY 5-8, 1987.

The University of Colorado will host a conference on tropical rainforest management. Drawing upon people and organizations of diverse perspectives, the theme is centred upon affirmative action. Both technical and social problems of forest management are to be placed within the context of policy solutions and outlets of action for concerned individuals. The conference is geared towards educating participants, mainly students, faculty and members of the local community. Further emphasis will be placed upon the creation of long-term educational efforts and community participation in the issues.

Events will take place at the University of Colorado Boulder campus - Boulder, Colorado. C.U.Environmental Center, UMC Rm 331-A, Box 207, University of Colorado, Boulder. CO 80309, USA □

SAHABAT ALAM MALAYSIA CONF. ON FOREST RESOURCE CRISIS IN THE THIRD WORLD

More than 60 participants from 22 countries attended this extremely productive conference. John Seed from the Rainforest Information Centre was there, thanks to the generous assistance of the Wilderness Society, the Colong Foundation for Wilderness, and three friends. The conference was important not only as the second meeting of the world rainforest action network (following last year's meeting in San Francisco), but also enabled contact to be made and information gathered in relation to our campaign to discourage the consumption of tropical timbers in Australia. Most of the tropical timbers used in Australia originate in Malaysia, the world's largest exporter of tropical timber.

Some 40 sessions were held over three arduous days, and as well as presenting papers on "The defense of the Australian rainforests" and "Deep Ecology", Seed was able to screen "Give Trees a Chance", Jeni Kendell and Paul Tait's Terania film, to a highly appreciative audience.

Some of the more memorable speakers included Ms. Vandana Shiva from India who spoke about the forest situation in her country, about drought and desertification and about the Chipko grassroots tree huggers.

Forestry Professor Delphin Ganapin spoke about the effects of forest destruction on ethnic minorities and about the Multilateral Development Banks (in particular the Asian Development Bank) in the Philipines.

Dr. Thavivongse Sriburi of the Siam Environment Club spoke about the forest resources crisis in Thailand and we learnt that Thailand is now a timber 'importer' because her forests are gone. The famous teak is gone and only the rich use wood for building, everyone else uses mainly concrete. Once again, Malaysia is their major supplier.

Speakers from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Malaysia and Kenya outlined the crises in the forests of their respective countries. Other speakers from USA, UK, Denmark, Japan and Australia spoke of the campaigns in their countries to protect the Third World rainforests.

There were four participants from Japan, and they were very conscious of Japan's role in the deforestation of the region (most of Japan's tropical timbers come from Malaysia too, now that Indonesia has stopped exporting logs and is processing her tropical timbers before exporting them). They were also very conscious of the weakness of the Japanese environmental groups in tackling the problem there and they realised that this was a particularly weak point in our net. All of them seemed to show a great hardening of resolve to build up awareness of the problem in Japan and a great deal of support was promised to those who would attend the first meeting of the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) in Yokohama next March.

The irrepressible Charles Secrett from FOE UK (whose tropical rainforest campaign is perhaps the most vigorous and creative in the world) stressed the importance of the ITTO and urged the Australian conservation community to send a representative to the Yokohama meeting to join him and others who would be lobbying for rainforest protection there. This meeting is seen as a focus for international pressure much as the meetings of the International Whaling Commission have been in recent years.

We learnt from Randy Hayes that the Rainforest Action Network in the USA has received a donation of \$75,000 and were using this to build up an active support base in that country. They have purchased membership lists from various conservation organisations and will have mailed out 500,000 well-designed appeals for support by the end of the year. Dr. Daniel Stiles from the United Nations Environment Programme promised UNEP's assistance and funding for our rainforest networking activities, and UNEP's willingness to be involved was one of the most positive outcomes of a very positive meeting.

Anyone who would like a list of the papers presented at the conference, send \$1.00 to the Rainforest Information Centre, PO Box 368, Lismore, 2480. We can then photocopy 16. and send you any of the materials you request.

DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE

" We, the participants of the Conference on Forest Resources Crisis in the Third World, met from 6 to 8 September 1986 in Penang Malaysia to discuss the critical issues and trends that have led to the disappearance of more than half the tropical rainforest in the world, and considered more concerted efforts to work together in saving the tropical rainforest.

WE HEREBY DECLARE THAT:.....



1. Natural resources such as land, forests, water, minerals and energy which are essential for human survival are depleting at a rapid rate. The destruction and degradation of tropical rainforests constitute the most serious manifestation of the general crisis of resources which the world is presently experiencing. In 1976, of the 2.4 billion acres of rainforest left in the world, 14 million acres were being completely and permanently destroyed each year (United Nations figures). By 1980, 50 million acres were being destroyed or seriously degraded each year (United States Academy of Sciences study). At present rates of deforestation, almost one-fifth of the world's remaining tropical rainforests will be completely destroyed or seriously degraded by the end of the century (1980 Food and Agriculture Organisation study).

2. The tropical rainforest crisis is largely the result of the growing demands of the world market, principally the markets of the industrialised consumer countries, which require increasing amounts of tropical timber and the produce of deforested land of the Third World, including palm oil, rubber, cocoa, sugar and beef. "Shifted cultivators" and other displaced communities are also increasingly pressured into clearing interior or highland forests as competition for land is intensified by spreading plantation schemes, industrial and urban development.

3. The destruction of tropical rainforests had led to massive soil erosion, washing away valuable agricultural topsoil and silting up the river systems. This in turn causes floods. Destruction of watersheds has also brought on prolonged droughts in the affected areas.

4. Ecological destructive projects such as dams, extensive irrigation schemes and agricultural schemes have been actively promoted by international financial institutions, United Nations agencies and national aid agencies. However, these institutions are designed to serve the interests of the industrialised consumer countries, with a result that it has led to the increasing debt crisis and impoverishment of the Third World.

5. Deforestation, whether for timber, cash crop monoculture or environmentally destructive projects, has displaced millions of indigenous peoples in the Third World. This has deprived them of their land and livelihood, and further destroyed indigenous culture, social structure and spiritual heritage.

6. The profits of deforestation continue to be transferred to industrialised consumer countries, through their control of the timber trade of Asia-Pacific, mining of the Amazon basin, and dam construction, among a few activities. Those profits which remain in the Third World are almost entirely held by local elites with hardly anything accruing to the majority of the population.

7. Attempts to reforest deforested areas with exotic monocultures have proven to be economically and environmentally undesirable, and urgent research is needed to find ecologically acceptable means to grow timber to satisfy essential needs.

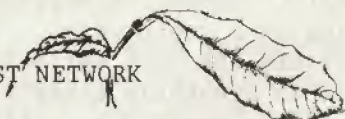
8. Concerted action must be stepped up to prevent further destruction of the tropical rainforest. NGOs from the industrialised consumer countries and the Third World must formulate strategies for joint actions.

9. Targets of action must include: financing institutions such as the World Bank; the Asian Development Bank; Trans National Corporations in the timber trade; TNCs utilising produce of deforested lands; national governments and the peoples of both producer and consumer countries.

10. Co-ordinated strategies should include: information documentation and exchange; expose of malpractices in the timber trade, beef trade, transmigration, construction of massive dams, expose of the role of international financial institutions and aid/loans; public demonstrations; consumer boycotts; NGO lobby of governments, financing institutions and the transnational and national corporate sector.

11. NGOs should play a prominent role in mobilising changes in development planning so that tropical rainforest's resources can be utilised based on the principle of 'sustainable development'. To that end, there must be a redistribution of resources, wealth and income on the international and national levels, accompanied by altered non-wasteful consumption patterns in the industrialised consumer countries. Third World governments must simultaneously redirect their priorities to basic needs satisfaction.

WORLD RAINFOREST NETWORK



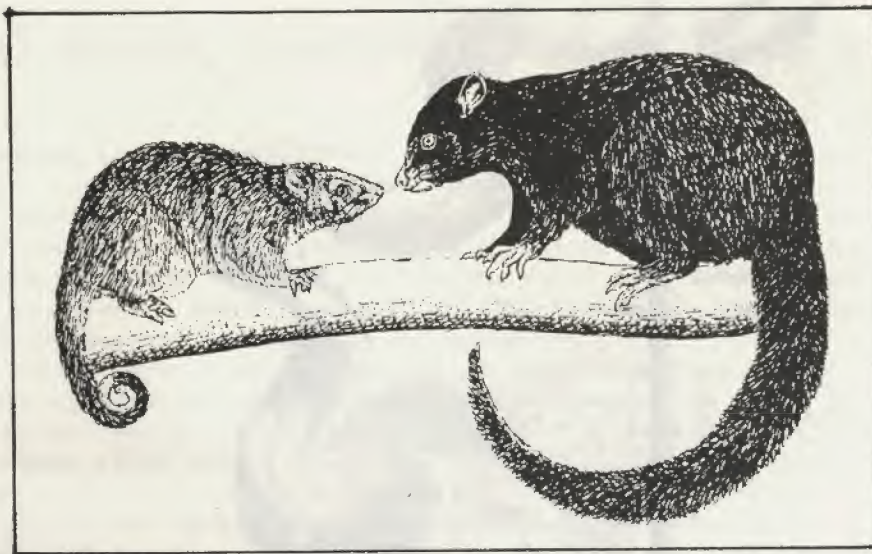
The conference ended with the formation of a World Rainforest Network (WRN) to link up groups and individuals involved in the effort to save the tropical rainforest.

The World Rainforest Network is committed, in the long term, to the following:

- (1) Information documentation and exchange as a basis for mass education and awareness programmes.
- (2) Organising support for and with indigenous communities whose lands, livelihoods and culture are gradually destroyed by deforestation.
- (3) Lobbying of international financing institutions (e.g. World Bank, Asia Development Bank, etc) and governments involved in bilateral loan agreements to check and prevent projects which destroy the rainforest.
- (4) Lobbying of Third World governments to adopt development strategies which are ecological, and ultimately, more economical;
- (5) Creating a network of ecology experts and scientists committed to alternatives to the present destructive model of resource development.

The Conference therefore concluded with a commitment to establish active links among activists and representatives of citizens' movements as well as resource persons from Third World and industrialised consuming countries in international, regional and national campaigns against the destruction of tropical rainforests...." ■





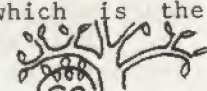
SWISS ON THE RUN GOES NATIVE IN SARAWAK

by James Ritchie

A swiss artist whose permit to stay in Malaysia expired on Dec.31 1984 has been living with the nomadic Penan tribe in the wilds of Sarawak.

Bruno Manser, 32, refuses to leave the country and has been hiding out in the remote jungles encompassing the Ulu Tutoh, Ulu Limbang and Gunung Mulu forest reserve area for two years. He has been on the run ever since he was picked up by police for questioning in April this year at a religious gathering but managed to make a dramatic escape. Adopting the Penan way of life, Bruno moves about bare-bodied, bare-footed and once sported a Penan-style hair-cut complete with pigtail.

He communicates in the Penan language, hunts with a blowpipe and makes his own "mulong" - a starchy food made from wild sago which is the Penan's staple diet.



Even after his permit expired, Bruno refused to have it renewed and continued living with the Kelabit of Long Seridan. During this period there were several incidents where the indigenous residents began to take up arms against the timber contractors. In one incident last September, workers were obstructed at the Tutoh bridge by the residents armed with shotguns and parangs. Police believe that Bruno has been instigating the Penan tribesmen.

To publicise his cause, he has invited officials from Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM), the Hamburg-based GEO magazine, Zurich-based Magnum Photo International and the World Wildlife Fund to highlight the plight of the Penan. The illiterate Penan have expressed admiration for Bruno's concern and his style of fighting for them. Fearing that their "White Rajah" would be arrested, the Penan have provided him with bodyguards and hidden him in deep virgin jungle since his escape.

Attending an Easter day 'irau'(gathering) on April 10th, he was questioned by an off-duty policeman who thought it strange that a European was dressed like a Penan. When the officer discovered that he had no valid entry documents, he asked Manser to accompany him to Limbang. On the journey, Manser, who was not handcuffed, escaped by diving into a deep ravine.

Even though only one warning shot was fired in the air, he told the Penan that the police fired five times at him with the intention to kill. This only strengthened their pledge to protect him. ■ 19.

IDEAS FOR ACTION



Everywhere these days we are faced with worrying global news. There are the dangers of nuclear holocaust and environmental catastrophe. People in some countries live with overpopulation, famine, political injustice and uncertainty and lack of freedom and opportunities.

Caring people with work and family commitments often feel powerless to affect the decisions made by those in positions of power.

Here are ideas for helping to make this a safe and beautiful planet for our children and grandchildren - for we don't leave this world to our children, we borrow it from them-

1. LIVE SIMPLY - WITH AWARENESS

Where do our resources come from?

How does their production affect the environment?

How does our lifestyle affect this planet?

2. CONSIDER OUR WASTES

How do the chemicals we all use affect the atmosphere, ground water, streams, rivers and oceans (not only pesticides and herbicides used to produce our store-bought food, but also detergents and lead petrol exhausts).

3. CONSIDER WHOM OUR DOLLARS SUPPORT

Buy the Australian Non Buyers Guide and boycott companies contributing to ecological damage, nuclear proliferation, human oppression, etc.

4. SHARPEN OUR SKILLS FOR COMMUNICATING THE DAMAGERS WE FACE

Write letters to politicians and others in power positions.
Learn public speaking.

5. ENCOURAGE SOCIAL LITERACY AND ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS PROGRAMS IN OUR KIDS' SCHOOLS

See Book Reviews, page of this issue.

6. IN SHORT - LIVE AS IF THE SURVIVAL MATTERS OF ALL THE OTHER SPECIES ON THIS PLANET - For the quality of our lives is diminished by each extinction, and extinction of species is increasing rapidly as each year passes.

BOOK REVIEWS

With news and information arriving here from all over the planet, sometimes our IN TRAY can be full of gloomy and depressing reading material. So it is with delight that we can report on inspiring books recommended reading for all who wish to raise their level of ecological consciousness.

"People, Problems and Planet Earth" (Second Edition) by Frank Hutchinson and Lyn Waddell, published by the Macmillan Company of Australia Pty. Ltd., 1986.

This book is dedicated, in part, to ".... all who care about Planet Earth and the resolution of its problems", and is an interdisciplinary approach to global awareness and social literacy. It makes an ideal text for upper secondary school courses such as General Studies or Society and Culture. It introduces a number of topics in study unit form containing discussion material, suggested classroom activities and resource guides.

The second book has been out longer, but the ideas and approach are fresh and very relevant.

"Sunship Earth - an acclimatization program for outdoor learning" by Steve Van Matre, published by the American Camping Association, USA, 1979.

This very detailed program aimed at the primary school is based on the assumption that if children have a fuller mind/body understanding of our relationship with the natural world, they will get started on environmental decision making for themselves. Although relevant to the ecology of North America, the ideas could easily be adapted to local conditions. The book successfully avoids the pitfalls of many environmental education programs, which seem to be a potpourri of unrelated concepts and activities, by focussing on an overall view of mankind's place space and what that means for each of us. We can't wait to try it at our own kid' school.

The third book is for everyone, and is an ideal gift for anyone who thinks there is nothing they can do about the destruction of planet earth.

The Australian Non Buyers Guide suggests action we can all take, by listing the common domestic products of companies involved in all stages of nuclear production, environmental destruction (with a strong emphasis on the tropical forests issue) and trade with South Africa. It's quite a list, enough to alter the shopping habits of anyone who cares. The Guide comes complete with shopping cards, which cross reference all these products into categories (e.g. detergents, edible oils) to make shopping easier. Also in the package are stickers, and entitlement to a free update. Available from many alternative bookstores, or for \$5 from Non Buyers Guide, P.O. Box 368, Lismore 2480.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENCE

John C. Jacob, Seek Bhavanam, Eday P.O., Kerala, INDIA:

Here this year we did not have much of rains during the monsoon. In some places there is no rain at all. This has never happened before. Since there is no rain in the catchment areas of the rivers, there is no water to produce electricity. So we are having current cut now. At this rate there will be no power for us next year. So the government wants to have more hydro projects (I do not know how they are going to turn the turbines without water) and at least one nuclear power station for Kerala. Bhopal tragedy did not teach us anything. And Chernobyl has not opened our eyes. It is said that Gods make a man mad when they want to destroy him. I think we have all gone mad.

This year more and more areas of land come under Eucalyptus. Everyone says about pulling out the seedlings, but so far nobody has started doing it... ■

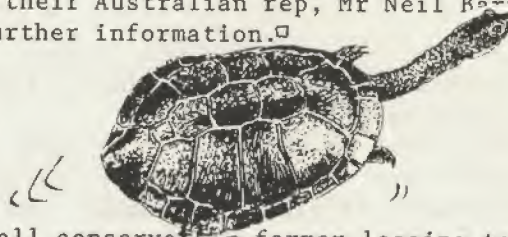
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION.

Greenfield House, Guiting Power, Cheltenham, Glos. GL54 5TZ, UK.

Thanks too to ICCE for 3 sets of slides entitled "Green Earth or Dry Desert", a donation from World Wildlife Fund International to us. We've passed them on to the Phillipines, Ecuador and Solomon Islands, thanks so much for spreading the rainforest message.

ICCE have an excellent range of audio visual material on environmental issues, suitable for schools and general use. Write to their Australian rep, Mr Neil Barrett, P.O. Box 311, Castlemaine, Victoria 3450 for further information. □

.... continuing correspondence



Noah Nielsen, age 13:

Our year 7 High School class at Kyogle, a small conservative former logging town in northern NSW, recently did a case study on the Amazon basin. In a classroom vote taken at the end of several months discussion about rainforests, five of the twelve and thirteen- year olds voted in favour of logging the area while the remaining twenty- three voted for its preservation. □

CATHOLIC RECTORY, Namuac, Sanchez Mira, 1129 Cagayan, Philippines:

I am a religious Brother Agriculturist working with poor farmers in this Diocese. Ecological Agriculture is my main stress in seminars and demonstrations I give. It would be very helpful to me and the peasant farmers if you would give us a free subscription of your very informative newsletter of the World Rainforest Action Network. I got a copy of it when I participated in that Agriculture Man & Ecology (AME) course held in Pondicherry, India (Feb. 10 to March 8 86). □

Pete and Deby, CAIXA POSTAL 9, Aiuruoca 37450, Minas Gerais, BRASIL:

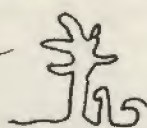
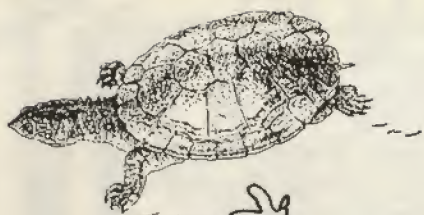
I would like to say how important the World Rainforest Report is to us (my wife Deby, Brazilian and I). We have been living and working 2 years now in a rather isolated corner of Brasil and your news always brings us hope and great joy. I am Australian (Victoria), trained in horticulture - battling for ecological sanity in Oz, Europe and Brasil for 14 years or so.

Our life and work here are not the grand fight to save the Amazon (I wish I could) but directly involved in trying to educate, improve the diet of the poor and try to assimilate within the day to day activities of the locals. This year, from our nursery we will provide each household with fruit trees of various types as part of an education program in our local school, - run by a 22 year old, incredibly capable girl from the south of Brasil - who receives nothing financially for her work. We are here trying; running out of savings which fund our work amid a Brasil which lives a moment of attempted changes in direction (Democracy) - with short memories, incredible corruption, open faced political lies and so many ridiculous things which occur. Brasil will pull through - but needs the help of every conscious person living outside of her - to question about where some of their consumer goods come from; whether they are not criticizing the destruction of the Amazon and helping in its very destruction by the goods they buy. The logic of destruction is not easy to understand unless coupled with positive creation.

Your newsletter is one of the positive bright spots in our life. One of the things which warms my heart and strengthens me for the long day's work is that you send it without charge. (Our finances allow for little contact outside of Brasil. All my memberships with organizations, subscriptions to magazines and official journals had to be eliminated). I would like to thank all those who donate and pay - I wish I could - but if I had to, I'd pocket the money to survive on a bit longer, to enable our work to go on. (Only my parents letters from Aust. are more regular in our mail box than your newsletter - nobody writes much any more - 'lost in Brasil') □

Asociacion "Amigos Del Bosque", 9A Calle No. 2-23 Zona 1, GUATEMALA. C.A.

We heard about your organization through ECOFORUM published by CEMA. We are a non-profit, non-government organization and are greatly concerned about the terrible deforestation taking place in our country. We would be very much interested in belonging to your organization, but at present due to exchange restrictions and very limited funds in the Treasury, we are unable to pay for the subscription. We would, of course, be willing to co-operate with your information centre by publishing small articles and other items of particular interest in our Bulletin, which goes to all



FIJI

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FIJI

from Mrs K M Tabunakawai, Assistant Information Officer, Ministry of Forests:

We are aware of your report in the June issue of your publication, titled 'Fijian Forests Threatened'.

We would like to comment and would appreciate it if the same is published for a balanced account of the article.

For a start, the country has just under half of its land area (830,000 ha) under forest cover of which approximately one quarter is classified as being exploitable with an average potential sawlog yields in the order of 45m³/ha. The balance of the forest is classified as either protection forest or non commercial forest having little exploitable timber.

As to the reference that Taveuni is next on the logging trail - this is not correct. Pressure to open some of the reserve forest area in Taveuni has come from the landowners themselves.

Additionally the call has come after protracted and exhaustive debate by the Senate in 1984. A resolution asked then "to review the reservation of Taveuni Forest Reserve, pay compensation, allocate part of the said land for the use of the landowners and lease the rest of the land from the rest of the 'mataqalis' who own the land in question".

At the time of the authority proclaiming the 27,900 acre Taveuni Reserve in 1913 a Forest Reserve, there was no provision for payments of either rent or compensation.

For further interest, of the 18 Forest Reserves in the country only the two on Taveuni (Taveuni Forest Reserve and Ravilevu Nature Reserve) are not the subject of a lease to the crown.

One particular landowning group, Mataqali Lekutu are currently living on land not their own since all the land they own is tied up in the reserve.

I am sure your office can appreciate the predicament such issues raise - on the one hand landowners with their immediate needs to be met, their land under reserve forest status, no compensation received and from our view the necessity to keep such areas under protection. Perhaps the best and most constructive way people and agencies can help towards saving Taveuni and other protection areas in Fiji is by funding provision to compensate landowners and to develop areas into recreational avenues.

Forestry Department and indeed the Government of Fiji would appreciate that.

Certainly not for logging as was pointed out by your report is the Taveuni Reserve Forest under consideration for some de-reservation. Most of the reserve forest fall under the Management category of protection and is very much taken into account.

Another point raised is the fact that Fiji Forestry is basically Australian owned. What developing country has been able to develop its forest resource without the financial aid of established foreign companies? Fiji did not have the finance nor the expertise to do it in the beginning so depended on the Westralian Forest Company. However, it is important that we appreciate that in recent years local companies and more importantly landowner companies have taken out large shares in the company - close to half total shares.

A joint venture arrangement is emerging with ever increasing local participation. Landowners are not having an increasing say in the exploitation of the forest on their land.

This department places equal emphasis on environmental issues as many other aspects of our work. We do have an Environmental Education officer that devotes a good percentage of her time on environment education with schools and the public.

Thank you.

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WGR



PARKS FOR PEOPLE OR PEOPLE FOR PARKS?

Conservationists are becoming increasingly disillusioned with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) emphasis on "Parks for People".

The NPWS is the only statutory body in the state with the primary aim and responsibility to protect native flora and fauna. Compare this with the huge number of bodies responsible for the health, welfare and recreation of people. Yet even this body directs over 80% of its funding for development work towards projects of direct benefit to people, e.g. visitor facilities, management facilities and services, historic restoration and aboriginal site and relic protection. The small remainder benefits plants and wildlife in the form of habitat restoration and environmental protection, and pest animal and weed control.

11 DEC 1986

The provision of visitor facilities is regarded as a priority in response to an increase in visitor pressure for access to parks. These facilities are often installed before a management plan has been prepared and with little or no attention to the ecological vulnerability of the area. The rational that humans have a right, even a responsibility, to "use" all available resources seems to have gained ascendancy over the sensibility that plants and animals have a right to exist for their own sake.

The National Parks and Wildlife Act actually requires that priority be given to protecting ecosystems within the parks. This is often interpreted to mean that the NPWS has only to preserve a range of habitat types without any commitment to the natural environment as a whole.

The NPWS should be adopting the cautious, moderate and conservative approach by giving ecosystem protection an unassailable priority. Instead it is presently leaning towards the radical extremist approach which allows irreversible habitat degradation by giving humans an increasing right to impose themselves.

Nan Nicholson, Terania Native Forest Action Group

